

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH    May 8, 2007**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES**

**The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Bill Munroe; Robert Bollengier, and Mary Walsh. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present. Student Member Geoffrey Southworth was absent.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Chair DeSack read the District Mission Statement.**

**OPEN FORUM – None**

**PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – None**

**Student Achievement Recognitions – Continuance – Superintendent Geismar introduced himself, School Committee members, and Administrators. He explained that since some students were unable**

to attend the previous meeting, they were invited back to tonight's meeting so that they can be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in academics and sports. Chair DeSack presented each of the students with recognition awards.

**Justin Belanger – Grade 12 made First Team All State in Wrestling for the third year in a row at 130 pounds. His wrestling accomplishments over the past 4 years place him in the ranks among RI Hall of Fame Wrestlers.**

The following students attended the Rhode Island Annual State D.E.C.A. (Distributive Education Clubs of America) competition on March 2nd at the Johnson & Wales Harborside Campus and participated in a variety of marketing/business based tests along with role plays. Each student had to take a 100 question test about their topic. When they completed the test, students participated in judged role play events. 1st and 2nd place finishers qualified for Nationals at the end of April. This year Nationals were held in Orlando, Florida April 27 – May 2. We had 11 students that attended.

**James Glendinning – Grade 11: DECA Quiz Bowl – 2nd Place**

**Derek Murphy – Grade 11: DECA Quiz Bowl – 2nd Place**

**Jasmine Collins – Grade 12: Travel and Tourism Marketing – 3rd Place**

## **Benjamin Fain – Grade 11: Accounting Applications – 2nd Place**

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**Nurse Teacher Recognitions – Vice Chair Cicero recognized Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District's school nurse teachers and asked Dawn Seitz and Deb Larkin, who were in attendance, to come forward. She expressed her opinion that the school nurse teachers are dedicated individuals and hold an important role in the school community. She thanked them for their service to the district and said that she values their role in the school community. Vice Chair Cicero presented Ms. Larkin and Ms. Seitz with recognition awards.**

**School Nurse Teacher Dawn Seitz said that she and her fellow school nurses would not be able to do their job without the support of the school community and said that she enjoys her work.**

**Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Nurse Teachers:**

**Dawn Seitz - Jr. – Sr. High School**

**Deb Larkin - Wawaloam/Lineham Schools**

**Chris McGrane - Metcalf School**

## **Valerie Druken - District wide**

**Referencing agenda item Jr. High School Presentation, Chair DeSack asked members to move to the auditorium for a Jr. High School Jazz Band performance.**

**Jr. High School Presentation – Principal Thompson introduced the Jr. High School jazz band, led by band teacher Gregg Charest. Mr. Charest reported that the Jr. High Big Band Jazz Ensemble recently participated in the RI Music Education Jazz Festival for the second year in a row and that they were just two points shy of receiving the highest grade possible. He also reported that the Sr. High Jazz Band recently placed 7th when they participated in an international competition. Mr. Charest led the Big Band Jazz Ensemble in a preview performance of the concert scheduled for this Thursday, May 10th and he extended an invitation to every one to attend.**

**Principal Thompson gave an overview and gave highlights of the many 2006 - 2007 successes and talents within the junior high school.**

**He reviewed junior high school programming, test scores, scheduling, school climate, school ranking, collaborative models, and challenges. Mr. Thompson expressed how tremendously proud and honored he is to serve as EWG Jr. High School principal. He emphasized that the junior high school is a good place, has high expectations for its students; academically and behaviorally, and will continue to strive to reach all students.**

**The meeting was moved back to the library at this point in time.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.**

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**Vice Chair Cicero requested that consent agenda item B., 3., b., Letter of resignation from Maureen DeCrescenzo, with regret, from her position as Special Education Director, for the purpose of retirement, effective August 31, 2007 be pulled for discussion.**

**Member Munroe referenced consent agenda item, A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of April 24, 2007 and requested that a typographical error be corrected. Change: Member Munroe arrived at 7:50 p.m. to Member Munroe arrived at 6:50 p.m.**

**Member Bollengier moved to accept the consent agenda - minus item B., 3., b.. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of April 10, 2007, Regular Minutes of April 24, 2007**

## **B. Personnel Items**

### **1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent) – (No Changes to FTE's)**

**a. Daniel Greene as Volunteer Sr. High School Boys' Volleyball Assistant Coach for the 2006 – 2007 season**

**b. Charles Wardyga as 1.0 FTE Custodian at Metcalf School, Step 1, Grade 1, Salary \$22,318.40, effective on or about May 10, 2007**

### **2. Leaves of Absence**

### **3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with regret)**

**a. Letter of resignation from Michelle Cataldo, with regret, from her position as 1.0 FTE Elementary Special Education Teacher at Metcalf School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 2007**

**b. Pulled**

**c. Letter of resignation from Linda Maynard, with regret, from her position as 1.0 FTE Secondary Special Education Teacher at the Sr. High School for the purpose of retirement, effective June 2007**

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**d. Letter of resignation from Lisa Foehr, with regret, from her position as 1.0 FTE Sr. High Foreign Language Teacher, effective June 2007**

**e. Letter of resignation from Sally Kent from her position as 1.0 FTE Teacher at Wawaloam School, for the purpose of retirement, with regret, effective June 2007**

#### **4. Grievances**

**B. Bills – (ENCLOSED) – In the amount of \$51,048.18**

**End Consent Agenda**

**Vice Chair Cicero requested that the committee revert back to agenda item, Jr. High School Presentation since she has questions and concerns regarding the Jr. High School math program as it relates to the senior high school math program graduation requirements. She said that she has discovered that if a student is pursuing the science track and they do not take algebra in the 8th grade it becomes challenging to get all the math requirements met for high school graduation. Also, students with IMP (math program) on their transcript rather than algebra are not desirable candidates to some colleges and universities when a student is pursuing the science track.**

**She added that parents need to be made aware of this. Principal Thompson will meet with mathematics chairperson Karen Putil to review and discuss this matter and he will report back to the committee.**

**Also, Vice Chair Cicero asked Director of Special Education Maureen DeCrescenzo clarifying questions regarding the new group home within the district that Principal Thompson referred to during his presentation. Ms. DeCrescenzo said that the new group home holds a different status than Arcadia and Exeter House and that she questions the district's responsibility for it. Consensus was that Ms. DeCrescenzo will provide further information regarding this matter in her next (June) Status Report.**

**Chair DeSack reverted back to agenda item, Student Achievement Recognitions – Continuance since one student that participated in the Rhode Island Annual State D.E.C.A. (Distributive Education Clubs of America) competition arrived at this time.**

**Superintendent Geismar recognized Katherine Matook – Grade 10: Buying and Merchandising – 1st Place and Chair DeSack presented her with a recognition award.**

**Chair DeSack reviewed the Correspondence.**

**Correspondence – (1) May 1, 2007 Letter to Captain Swanberg from Superintendent Geismar; (2) April 27, 2007 Letter and information regarding**

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**Feinstein Good Deeds Program at Metcalf School; (3) April 27, 2007 Letter and information regarding Feinstein Good Deeds Program at Wawaloam School; (4) April 30, 2007 e-mail from Elizabeth Lind regarding Langevin “Artistic Discovery”; (5) Copy of Letter to Maureen DeCrescenzo from RI Parent Information Network informing her she has been designated as the awardee of the 2007 RIPIN Education Partner Award**

**Members did not express and questions or concerns regarding Correspondence.**

**MONTHLY BUDGET PROJECTION 2006 – 2007 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the district is still in the black.**

**MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent’s Status Report – In response to Clerk Coutcher’s inquiry regarding the 07/08 Kindergarten projected unbalanced town registration enrollment figures, Superintendent Geismar said that he will report back to the committee with updated enrollment numbers and a plan for am/pm session assignments by town.**

**Business Status Report – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Business Status Report.**

**Curriculum Status Report – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Curriculum Status Report.**

**Special Education Status Report – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Special Education Status Report.**

**Maintenance Status Report – Member Maher asked for clarification regarding an issue that recently occurred at Lineham School. The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the circumstances surrounding the matter and reported that a toilet overflowed due to a clog and that this was not related to a septic issue.**

**Technology Status Report – Members did not express any questions or concerns regarding the Technology Status Report.**

**Monthly Subcommittee Report – Policy Subcommittee – Vice Chair Cicero referenced policy subcommittee report item - Policy #8607 – PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ATHLETICS, and distributed copies, with underlined proposed changes, for members review and comments. She said that both Principal Boulé and Principal Thompson have recommended strongly that adjustments be administered to the policy in order to better meet the needs of all students**

and to eliminate inconsistencies within the transition from jr. high to sr. high. After a detailed discussion and question session, consensus was that members will e-mail their feedback to Superintendent Geismar by next Tuesday and he will communicate it to the policy subcommittee and administrators. The policy subcommittee will adjust policy language and bring this policy back to the School Committee at its next regular meeting of May 22, 2007.

**NEW BUSINESS – Revised Sr. High School Mission Statement Approval – Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the revised Sr. High School Mission Statement. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.**

**Board of Regents Meeting Regarding Capital Funds - Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reminded School Committee members that at its last meeting Member Maher asked for feedback regarding the Board of Regents meeting concerning the state's proposed school construction regulations. As a follow up to that inquiry, Mr. Ross reported representatives of RIASBO testified to the Board of Regents that the proposed regulations requiring districts to earmark 2% of property valuation for the previous three years would have an adverse impact on budgeting. The proposed 2% regulation is no longer being proposed.**

**School Calendar 2007 - 2008 – Superintendent Geismar requested that this agenda item be postponed to the next regular School Committee meeting in order to allow him time to review it once more with staff members. Members and Administrators discussed and exchanged ideas regarding postponing the first day of school until after Labor Day, possibly proposing a format change in the future to eliminate one of the school vacation weeks, and possibly scheduling a public forum to discuss the proposed changes. Consensus was that Superintendent Geismar will review state regulations regarding the school calendar and report back to the committee at its next regular meeting. This item will carry over to the next regular meeting agenda.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – K – 5 Mathematics Curriculum – Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept K – 5 Mathematics Curriculum. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 7 – 0.**

**Metcalf Fire Alarm – Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that he will hold a meeting tomorrow morning with the district's architectural firm Torrado and Metcalf's fire alarm installer AFA since it was brought to his attention on Friday, May 4th that on April 24th a work stop order was issued by the State Deputy Fire Marshal. Mr. Ross said that the notification was communicated to him and AFA via e-mail. Since the school district's e-mail system detected this message as junk mail, and since between April 24th and**

May 4th Mr. Ross had two conversations with AFA who never mentioned the work stop order to him, he did not become aware of this situation until May 4th. Mr. Ross voiced his concerns regarding the fact that the stop order notification via email does

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not meet due diligence and that the installer (AFA) did not alert the district. Mr. Ross said the work stop order was issued due to revisions in the project. When revisions are made to the project, it is required that documentation reflecting the changes be provided to the Fire Marshal for his review and approval at a fee of \$1,000. He speculated that there may be a dispute about who is responsible for the fee. However, the bid spec stipulates that the fee will be paid by the installer. He assured members that this matter will be resolved at tomorrow's meeting. After a discussion and question session, consensus was that Mr. Ross will report back to the committee about his findings concerning tomorrow morning's meeting so that the committee can decide how it wants to move forward; and going forward, Director of Maintenance Bill Plumley will check on the project prior to and just after the weekend.

Principal Search – Superintendent Geismar reported the deadline for submitting applications is May 23, 2007 and to date there are 12 candidates; 6 are sitting principals. He reviewed the Principal Selection Timeline memo and the Principal Search Committee

**Recommendations memo that he provided to members in their supplemental packets.**

**The Superintendent said that he is appointing the following people to the Principal Search Committee:**

**Judy Savino Non-certified staff**

**Louise Boyce Principal, Metcalf Elementary**

**Sue Wieboldt Teacher, Wawaloam**

**Deb Larkin\* School Nurse Teacher, Wawaloam and Lineham**

**\*Mrs. Larkin is an additional appointee who can represent teachers from both schools.**

**Superintendent Geismar said that the policy states the Superintendent or designee shall sit on the search committee. He will assign Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley as designee and he will sit in on interviews but will not ask questions until the final interview segment. He reported that four parents have requested to be appointed to the search committee. Their qualifications are very strong.**

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept Judi Simonini of Exeter as one of the parent representatives on the Wawaloam principal search committee and Peter Petrarca of West Greenwich as one of the parents on the principal search committee. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0.**

**Member Bollengier left the meeting at this time – (9:10 p.m.)**

**Chair DeSack reviewed the important dates and meetings.**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Saturday, May 12th and Saturday, May 19th – EWG High School Plant Sale (Greenhouse) 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Wednesday, May 16th – High School Chorus Concert; Sunday, June 3, 2007 – HS Band Concert;**

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**May 17 – 20 – Senior Class Trip to Busch Gardens; Tuesday, May 22, 2007 – School Committee Meeting; Friday, May 25, 2007 – Jr./Sr. Prom – Hyatt, Goat Island, Newport; Monday, May 28, 2007 – Memorial Day; Thursday, May 31, 2007 – Honors Night 6:30 p.m.; Friday, June 1, 2007 – Freshman/Sophomore Semi Formal SH Gymnasium; Saturday June 2, 2007 – Kristi Lussier Memorial Walk – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Thursday, June 7, 2007 – Class Day 7:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the HS Auditorium; Saturday, June 9, 2007 – Graduation @ 12:00 p.m. - The Ryan Center; Tuesday, June 12, 2007 – School Committee meeting**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to the item pulled from the consent agenda, B., 3., b., Letter of resignation from Maureen DeCrescenzo, with regret, from her position as Special Education Director, for the purpose of retirement, effective August 31, 2007. Vice Chair Cicero expressed her sentiments that Maureen**

**DeCrescenzo has been an asset to the parents and staff of the district and has done a tremendous job. She said that Maureen is recognized in the State of Rhode Island as the best Special Education Director in the state and that her shoes will be hard to fill.**

**Maureen DeCrescenzo said that it has been an honor and a delight to work for Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District.**

**Member Bollengier returned at this time, (9:15 p.m.).**

**Ms. DeCrescenzo said her departure is bittersweet and she has enjoyed her work immensely.**

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept, with regret, consent agenda item, B., 3., b. Letter of resignation from Maureen DeCrescenzo, with regret, from her position as Special Education Director, for the purpose of retirement, effective August 31, 2007.**

**Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Vice Chair Cicero moved to go into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement/Negotiation Discussion and 42-46-5 (a)(9) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Grievances and 42-46-5 (a)(1) – Personnel – Sick Leave. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 7 – 0.**



**Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.**

**Member Bollengier moved to reconvene to Open Session. Seconded by Chair DeSack.**

**Voted 7 – 0.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:45 p.m.**

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**A vote was taken during Executive Session to allow the Superintendent to use Attorney Vin Ragosta for some upcoming grievances. Voted 6 – 1 in favor. Member Maher voted no.**

**ADJOURNMENT – Chair DeSack moved to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned 10:15 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**